MARVELS

COULD YOU SIGN IT, "TO MARTIN -- HAPPY FORTY-THIRD BIRTHDAY?"

MARVELS

Book Signing
1:30 - 3:30 TODAY
Meet Photojournalist
Phil Sheldon
Author of
MARVELS
Published by
EMPIRE BOOKS

HOW'S THAT?

THIS IS *EXCELLENT*, PHIL. FAR BETTER THAN EXPECTED.

I'VE SENT BACK TO THE OFFICE FOR TWO MORE *CASES*.

WE *HAVE* TO START TALKING SEQUEL.

MY PUBLISHER WAS DELIGHTED WITH THE SPLASH MY BOOK WAS MAKING, AND I SUPPOSE I SHOULD HAVE BEEN AS WELL.

BUT I KNEW IT WASN'T REALLY MY BOOK THEY WANTED.

I HAD TO TELL YOU -- THIS SHOT OF *HAWKEYE* -- -- IT'S SO *BOLD* -- HE LOOKS SO DARING --

THANK YOU. I WAS LUCKY TO *GET* IT.

THEY WANTED A TALISMAN.

THEY WANTED TO CLAP THEIR HANDS FOR TINKER-BELL AND SAY I BELIEVE, BUT DIDNT KNOW HOW.

THEY WANTED THE AVENGERS TO COME BACK.

ALL WE KNEW WAS THAT THEY WERE IN ANOTHER GALAXY.

ALL WE KNEW WAS THAT THEY WERE FIGHTING IN A WAR -- A WAR BETWEEN TWO ALIEN RACES. AND IF THEY FAILED, WE WOULD ALL DIE.

THERE WERE NO BULLETINS. NO RADIO REPORTS. HOW COULD THERE HAVE BEEN?

ALL WE COULD DO WAS WAIT. AND HOPE.

AND, AMID PRAYERS AND CROSSED FINGERS, WE KNEW ONE THING:

THEY WERE LAYING THEIR LIVES ON THE LINE FOR US -- AFTER ALL WE'D DONE TO THEM.

WE'D PILLORIED THEM IN THE STREETS, SLANDERED THEM IN A SENATE INVESTIGATION --

-- TRIED TO HAVE THEM FORCIBLY ARRESTED AS TRAITORS.

OH, WE KNEW NOW WE'D BEEN WRONG -- THAT THE SENATOR WHO'D TURNED US AGAINST THEM WAS AN ENEMY ALIEN HIMSELF --

-- BUT BY THAT TIME, THEY WERE GONE, FIGHTING TO SAVE A WORLD THAT HAD SPIT ON THEM AND CURSED THEM.

IN MY DAY, WE'D HAVE BEEN HONEST ABOUT IT.

NO WORD FROM AVENGER.

WALTER WINCHELL OR H.V. KALTENBORN WOULD HAVE COME ON THE RADIO --

"TONIGHT, AMERICA HOLDS HER BREATH AND HOPES THAT WHEREVER THEY ARE TONIGHT, HER BOYS ARE SAFE.

"WE HANG OUR HEADS AT THE INJUSTICE WE HAVE DONE THEM AND SILENTLY BEG THEIR FORGIVENESS."

BUT NOT TODAY.

MARVELS

TODAY WE BUY BOOKS BY WAY OF APOLOGY AND EYE EACH OTHER IN THE SUBWAY AND SAY NOTHING.

AND WHEN THEY DID COME BACK AND WE WERE SAFE AGAIN, WE COUGHED AND SAID IT WASN'T THAT IMPORTANT ANYWAY.

BAXTER BUILDING

FACE OF A MURDERER
READ THE DAILY BUGLE AND LEARN THE TRUTH!

WE HAD OTHER THINGS TO OCCUPY OUR ATTENTION NOW.

IT WOULD HAVE SERVED US RIGHT IF THEY'D NEVER RETURNED.

WE DIDN'T DESERVE THEM.

IGGY'S SUPER HEROES

GATHER 'ROUND, YOU LOSERS AND HAS-BEENS --

-- I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE MARCIA HARDESTY, BIG JACK HARDESTY'S DAUGHTER.

TRY A HOT SUB!

SHE'S JUST HIRED ON AS MY ASSISTANT.

IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU ALL.

WHAT'S THE MATTER, PHIL? TOO GOOD FOR US NOW?

IT WAS THE BEST SELLER. WENT STRAIGHT TO HIS HEAD.

GOT NO TIME FOR WORK NOW, OUR PHIL -- HE'S GOT TO DO ALL THE TALK SHOWS.

I MIGHT'VE KNOWN. YOU'RE JACKALS, ALL OF YOU -- STRIKING AT ANY SIGN OF WEAKNESS!

BUT I'M TOO STUBBORN TO QUIT AND YOU KNOW IT! DORIS STILL HAS TO BADGER ME FOR MONTHS TO TAKE A VACATION.

BUT I'M GETTING OLD. I'M NOT AS FAST AS I USED TO BE --

AND MY HANDS -- I'M STARTING TO NEED HELP IN THE *DARKROOM*...

HEY! YOU DON'T NEED TO JUSTIFY ANYTHING TO THESE *WISENHEIMERS*, PHIL!

IF *ANYBODY* IN THIS PLACE HAS EARNED A REST, IT'S *YOU!*

*THE TRUTH WAS, IT WASN'T JUST MY **HANDS**.*

*I WAS **TIRED**. TIRED AND IRRITABLE. I WAS TURNING INTO A SOUR OLD MAN, AND I DIDNT KNOW HOW TO STOP IT.*

*THE **JOBS** I WAS GETTING CERTAINLY WERENT ANY HELP.*

-- WILL PROVE BEYOND A *SHADOW OF A DOUBT* THAT THE VIGILANTE KNOWN AS THE *BLACK WIDOW*, WITH MALICE AFORETHOUGHT --

-- SET OUT TO COMMIT MURDER AND *DID* SO!

MURDER -- IN THE *FIRST DEGREE!*

THIS IS SO *EXCITING!*

IT'S A *FARCE*, IS WHAT IT IS!

*SHE STOPPED A **CRIMINAL** -- THE COSTUMED MANIAC CALLED THE SCORPION. HE WASNT EVEN **DEAD**, AS IT TURNED OUT.*

*BUT WE TRIED TO **HANG** HER FOR IT ANYWAY.*

Daily Globe

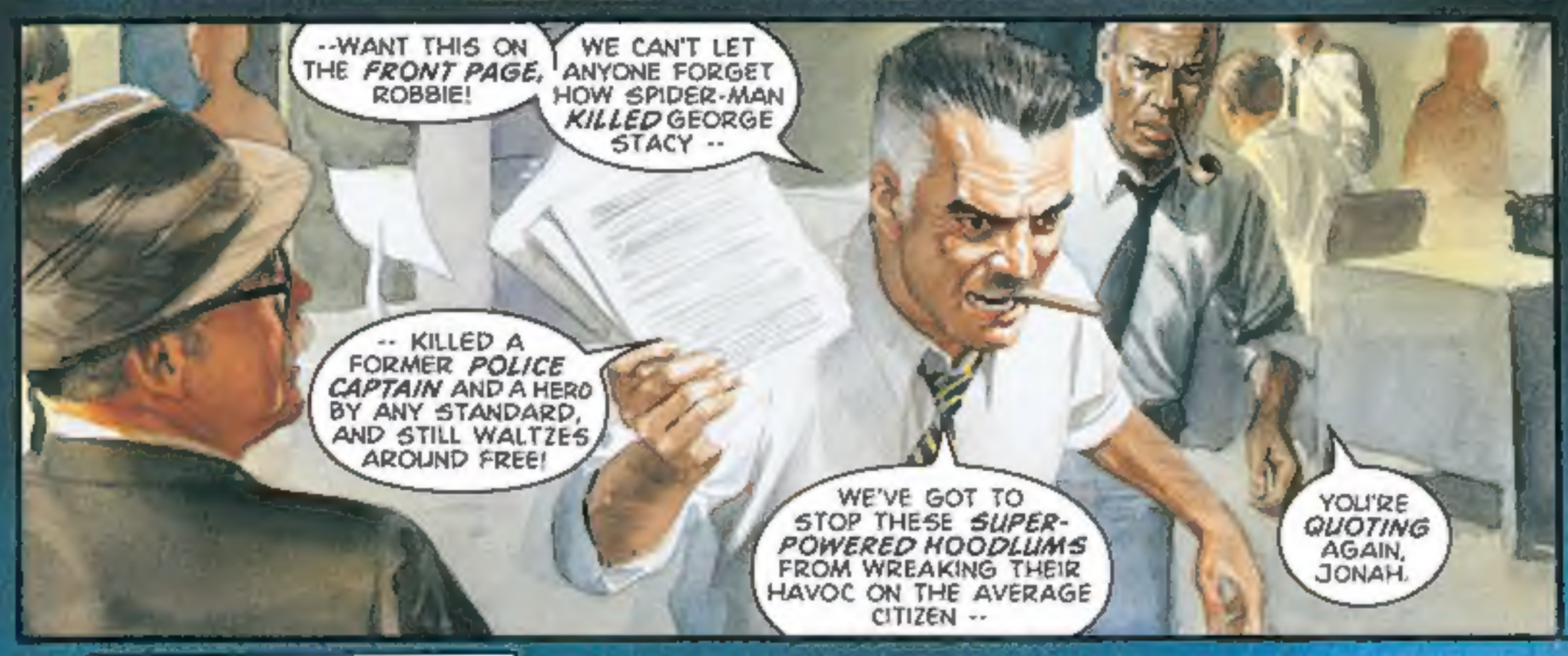
CITY ★★ | FINAL

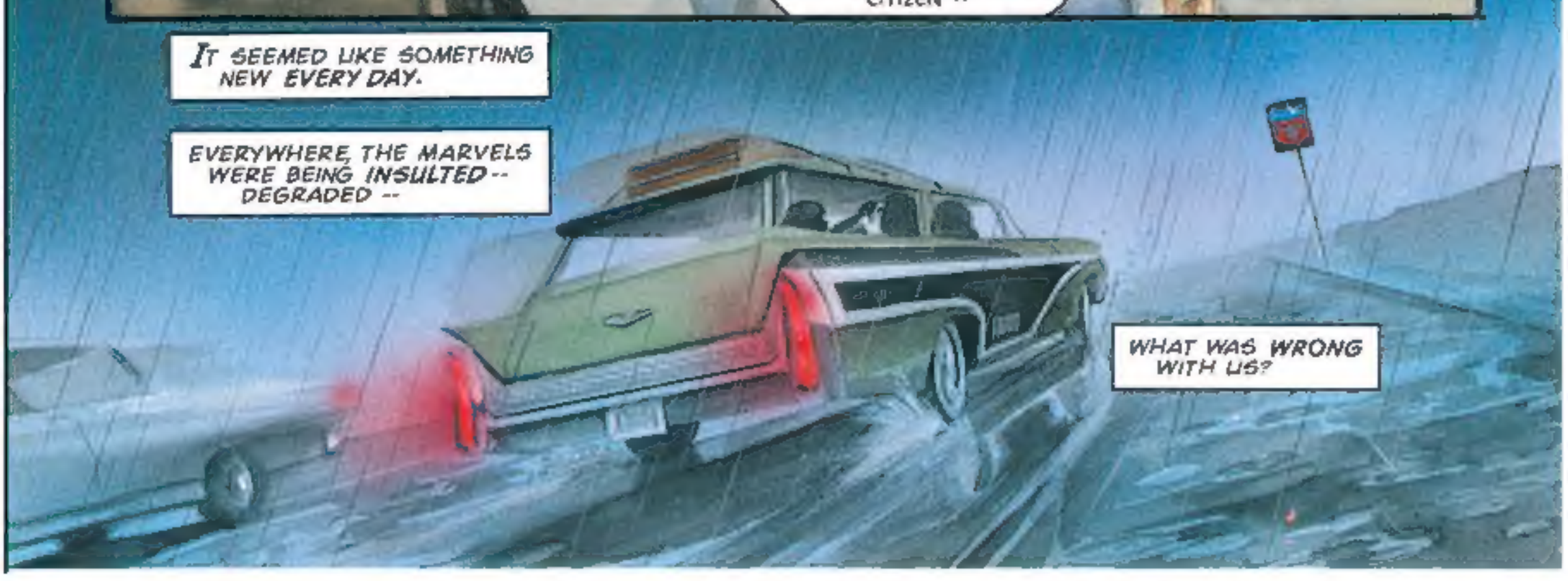
FOUR WOUNDED IN STARK RIOT

Iron Man, Guardsman Lash Out at Student Demonstrators

Board of Directors Votes 'No Confidence' in Stark

-- DOES THE EXISTENCE OF HARLEM'S OWN SUPER HERO SPEAK TO --
THE FALCON? HE AIN'T NO HERO -- NOT UP HERE!
YEAH! HIS SKIN BE BLACK --
-- BUT INSIDE, HE JUST ANOTHER WHITE MAN!


--WANT THIS ON THE FRONT PAGE, ROBBIE!
WE CAN'T LET ANYONE FORGET HOW SPIDER-MAN KILLED GEORGE STACY --
-- KILLED A FORMER POLICE CAPTAIN AND A HERO BY ANY STANDARD, AND STILL WALTZES AROUND FREE!
WE'VE GOT TO STOP THESE SUPER-POWERED HOODLUMS FROM WREAKING THEIR HAVOC ON THE AVERAGE CITIZEN --
YOU'RE QUOTING AGAIN, JONAH.



THE FINAL STRAW CAME WHILE I WAS ON VACATION.

I WAS DROWSING -- DREAMING OF ANGELS AND GIANTS AND A CALM, COMFORTING VOICE THAT GLOWED WITHIN MY HEAD --

PHIL!

PHIL, DID YOU HEAR IT?!

WHAT -- ?

IT WAS GALACTUS! HE WAS IN NEW YORK!

HE RETURNED TO EARTH AGAIN, BUT THE FANTASTIC FOUR DROVE HIM OFF!

AND REED RICHARDS --

-- REED RICHARDS SPOKE TO EVERYONE SOMEHOW -- RIGHT INTO OUR MINDS --

-- TELLING US WE WERE SAFE AGAIN -- THAT EVERYTHING WAS ALL RIGHT!

HE SPOKE RIGHT INTO OUR MINDS!

REED RICHARDS, HUH?

YOU MEAN THIS REED RICHARDS?

LANDLORD WANTS FANTASTIC FOUR O-U-T!

Eviction Threat Just Latest of Woes for Famous Quartet

I HAD TO *DO* SOMETHING. I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT, BUT --

Globe

TNIK!

-- THEY SAVE US AND THEY SAVE US AND WE *INSULT* AND *BELITTLE* THEM.

WE'RE JUST BLIND TO THE TRUTH ABOUT THEM.

DOESN'T THAT SEEM ODD TO YOU?

NOPE.

I THINK YOU'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THIS *WAAAY* TOO MUCH, PHIL.

YOU'VE WORKED SO *HARD* TO MAKE SURE WE'LL BE ALL RIGHT WHEN YOU RETIRE, PHIL. AND THE BOOK'S BEEN A REAL *WINDFALL.*

I WAS HOPING WE COULD START THINKING ABOUT *FLORIDA...*

I DON'T *KNOW,* MISTER S. I THINK THEY'RE GREAT, AND THEY *DO* GET DUMPED ON A LOT, ESPECIALLY IN THE BUGLE, BUT THIS --

-- THIS SOUNDS KIND OF *RELIGIOUS,* YOU KNOW?

-- BUT I HAD TO *DO SOMETHING.*

I COULDN'T JUST BURY MY HEAD IN THE SAND LIKE EVERYONE ELSE AND PRETEND IT WAS OKAY TO --

SPIDER-MAN!

-- STARTLED ME --

-- WHY CAN'T THE POLICE --

-- SO CREEPY --

-- MUR-DERER --

-- JAMESON'S RIGHT --

-- AWFUL --

THAT'S WHEN I REALIZED WHAT I WAS GOING TO DO. I DIDN'T KNOW HOW -- BUT I KNEW WHAT.

I WAS GOING TO BALANCE THE SCALES A LITTLE.

I WAS GOING TO CLEAR SPIDER-MAN OF THE MURDER OF GEORGE STACY.

PHIL!

I'VE GOT AN ASSIGNMENT FOR YOU, IF YOU'VE GOT THE TIME.

SURE, ROBBIE. WHAT'S UP?

THERE'S A FELLA WORKING OUT OF *TIMES SQUARE*, CALLS HIMSELF THE "HERO FOR HIRE."

HE'S APPARENTLY BEEN TAKING OUT DOPE DEALERS VERY PUBLICLY -- THEN HANDING OUT *BUSINESS CARDS.*

I'M HAVING FOX CHECK IT OUT FOR THE *"BROADWAY BEAT"* COLUMN, AND I COULD USE SOME *PICTURES.*

LUKE CAGE
HERO FOR HIRE

.NTERESTING

I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU COULD DO ME A FAVOR IN *RETURN?*

AND THAT WOULD *BE -* ?

THE FILE ON THE *GEORGE STACY* MURDER WITNESSES, INVESTIGATING OFFICERS, *POLICE REPORT...*

IS THIS SOMETHING FOR THE *BUGLE?*

NOT WHILE *JONAH'S* RUNNING IT, I DON'T THINK

WELL, IT'S *NOT* LIKE YOU COULDN'T DIG UP THE INFORMATION ON YOUR OWN.

". I GUESS I DON'T SEE WHY NOT "

YOU GOTTA SHOW MY *FACE* IN THESE PHOTOS?

THINK OF IT AS *FREE PUBLICITY,* MISTER CAGE

YEAH, WELL I'M ALL *FOR* PUBLICITY --

-- BUT DO I HAVETA BE *IN THE PAPER* TO GET IT?

I SUPPOSE I SHOULD HAVE WONDERED WHY HE DIDN'T WANT HIS FACE IN THE NEWSPAPER --

-- BUT I KEPT THINKING ABOUT THE NOTES ROBBIE HAD GIVEN ME

WHY DON'T WE CATCH YOU *AFTER LUNCH*, MISTER CAGE -- WHEN YOU'VE HAD TIME TO *THINK*.

CATCH A BURGER OR SOMETHING AT THE *PORT AUTHORITY*, MARCIA --

-- I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO *DO*.

ONE OF THE WITNESSES LIVED RIGHT *AROUND* HERE --

MAN, JUST STARTIN' OUT AND ALREADY I'M *YESTERDAY'S NEWS!*

TEACH *ME* TO PLAY HARD-TO-GET, HUH?

YES, I WAS *THERE*, MISTER SHELDON.

I SAW IT *ALL*.

"IT WAS *TERRIBLE*, THE WAY THE TWO OF THEM WENT AT IT --

"-- BUT THAT SPIDER MAN -- HE DIDN'T WANT *WITNESSES.*

"WHEN HE SAW THE *CROWD* --

"-- WELL, HE *THREW* THAT CHIMNEY AT US, JUST AS SURE AS I'M SITTING HERE!

"I DON'T KNOW WHETHER HE WAS AIMING IT AT CAPTAIN STACY OR JUST GOT LUCKY --

"-- BUT WHEN HE FOUND OUT HE HADN'T *KILLED* HIM, NOT ALL THE WAY --

"-- WELL, HE *CARRIED HIM AWAY* TO FINISH OFF LATER.

"*HORRIBLE* MAN! JUST *HORRIBLE!*"

IT SEEMED SO HARD TO BELIEVE.

SPIDER-MAN HAD SAVED SO MANY LIVES --

SHE TOLD YOU WHAT?

AMAZING WHAT SOME PEOPLE WILL SAY TO GET ATTENTION.

SHE PROBABLY EVEN BELIEVES THAT'S WHAT SHE SAW, BY NOW.

DON'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU READ IN THE PAPERS.

-- AND WHICH OF THE TWO ON THE ROOF DOES THAT FIT?

BUT WE CAN'T QUESTION SPIDER-MAN --

-- SO WE GOT NO CASE.

THE TRUTH IS, WE DON'T WANT SPIDER-MAN FOR THE MURDER -- JUST FOR QUESTIONING.

BUT THE BUGLE --

CAPTAIN STACY WAS ONE OF US. WE WANT HIS KILLER WORSE THAN YOU KNOW.

BUT FORENSICS SAYS THAT CHIMNEY WAS TOPPLED BY SOMETHING HARD AND METALLIC --

THE POLICE DIDN'T EVEN THINK HE WAS GUILTY! THEY JUST WANTED A STATEMENT FROM HIM!

MAYBE I COULD WRITE IT AS AN OP-ED PIECE -- NOT FOR JONAH, OF COURSE --

-- MAYBE THAT WOULD DO IT --

Daily Globe

HULK IN NEW YORK

Terrified Populace Flees Greenwich Village

BUT NO -- I NEEDED MORE DETAIL.

MORE INCIDENT -- TO SHOW WHAT A FALSE AND DAMAGING MESSAGE HAD BEEN SENT.

HA!

SEVEN!

YOU'RE ON *MARVIN GARDENS*, DADDY -- AND I'VE GOT A *HOTEL!*

YOU OWE ME *TWELVE HUNDRED DOLLARS!*

THAT CLEANS ME OUT, JEN --

-- SO IT'S DOWN TO YOU AND YOUR MOM.

I'VE GOT TO GET SOME *WORK* DONE, ANYWAY.

WE INTERRUPT THIS PROGRAM FOR A SPECIAL NEWS BULLETIN.

HEY! I WAS WATCHING *ASTRO-NUTS!*

Shh, HON.

OFFICIALS HAVE *REVERSED* EARLIER DENIALS AND RELEASED THESE PHOTOS, TAKEN BY THE U.N 'S STARCORE STATION.

THEY SEEM TO SHOW UNKNOWN OBJECTS IN AN ORGANIZED FORMATION --

-- TRAVELING TOWARD US FROM THE SUN ITSELF!

DAD -- ?

PHIL -- DO YOU THINK YOU SHOULD GO OUT -- ?

IT COULD BE --

IT'LL BE NOTHING, DORIS.

TRUST ME.

WE HAD NO FAITH, THAT WAS OUR PROBLEM

WE DIDN'T TRUST THE MARVELS --

-- SO EVERY TIME THERE WAS THE BLIGHTBOT CRISIS WE'D GET SCARED ALL OVER AGAIN.

HEAR THE NEWS, PHIL?

THE WIFE SAYS IT'S MARTIANS. ME, I'M THINKIN' ABOUT DIGGIN' OUT THAT OLD *FALLOUT SHELTER* IN THE BACK --

WHY *BOTHER* ?

THE FANTASTIC FOUR OR THE AVENGERS OR SOMEONE'LL HANDLE IT. AND ONCE IT'S OVER AND THEY'VE *SAVED* US --

-- WE'LL POKE 'EM IN THE *EYE* FOR IT!

HE SHOUTED CAPTAIN STACY'S NAME -- *BEFORE* HE KNOCKED OVER THE CHIMNEY.

THAT MAKES IT *CUT AND DRIED*, AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED.

WELL, IT *HAD* TO BE HIM, RIGHT?

I *THINK* I SAW HIM...

IT'S ALL A COVER-*UP!* SPIDER-MAN, ALL OF THEM -- THEY'RE GOVERNMENT AGENTS -- *KILLERS* --

-- THEY STAGE THESE BATTLES AS EXCUSES TO ELIMINATE PEOPLE WHO COULD EXPOSE THEM!

I *HAD* PROOF, BUT IT WAS STOLEN --

THANKS FOR AGREEING TO SPEAK ON THE *RECORD*, JONAH.

MY *LIFE* IS ON THE RECORD. I HAVE NOTHING TO *HIDE*.

YOU'VE RECENTLY WRITTEN ARTICLES ACCUSING SPIDER-MAN OF KIDNAPPING DOCTOR JORGENSON, THE BLOOD SPECIALIST --

-- AND OF PROVING HIMSELF *'YELLOW'* BY NOT STOPPING A CRIME WAVE.

YES. SO?

SO HOW CAN YOU EXHORT SPIDER-MAN TO *ACT*, BY CALLING HIM A COWARD --

-- BUT WHEN HE *DOES* ACT, YOU LABEL HIM A *CRIMINAL*?

PHIL, IF HE *WAS* A HERO -- IF YOUR "MARVELS" WERE TRULY THE *NOBLE, SELFLESS CRUSADERS* THEY CLAIM --

-- HOW COULD THE REST OF US *MEASURE UP?* HOW COULD WE MEET THAT *STANDARD?*

BUT JONAH -- WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO *DO* --

NOTHING! IT HAS *NOTHING* TO DO WITH THE CASE!

SPIDER-MAN *IS A GLORY-SEEKING FRAUD* -- AND I'LL *EXPOSE* HIS HYPOCRISY WHENEVER I --

SIR! IT'S COMING IN OVER THE *TELETYPE* --

-- THE *AVENGERS* HAVE BEEN SIGHTED IN AUSTRALIA! IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE *SENTINELS* --

-- AND THOSE THINGS FROM THE *SUN!*

WE'LL HAVE TO CONTINUE THIS CONVERSATION *LATER*, PHIL. I'VE GOT A PAPER TO RUN.

WAS THAT WHAT IT WAS? JEALOUSY? WE WERE SO AWED BY THE MARVELS THAT WE HAD TO GRIND THEM DOWN --

-- TURN THEM INTO SOMETHING WE COULD HIRE AND FIRE AT WILL? WORLDS SAVED HERE -- TWO CHAIRS, NO WAITING?

IF THAT'S THE CASE, CAGE, YOU'D BETTER *LOOK OUT* --

-- BECAUSE NO MATTER *HOW* LOW A PROFILE YOU KEEP, IT WON'T BE *LOW ENOUGH* --

-- AND ONCE WE'RE THROUGH WITH THE *OTHERS*, WE'LL HAMMER *YOU* DOWN, TOO.

FINAL

DAILY

THE PICTURE NEWSPAPER

Partly cloudy, chance of snow. High 25-30. Low [illegible]

DR. OCTOPUS CAPTURED

Master Criminal Discovered In Westchester Hideaway; Spider-Man Flees Scene

Fire Destroys Southampton Home; Claims the Lives of Two Avengers

IT'S RIGHT ON THE *FRONT PAGE!*

I'VE GOT TO GET IN TO *SEE* HIM, MISTER SCHWED! IT'S IMPORTANT!

I'VE BEEN CALLING ALL OVER TOWN -- SURELY *EMPIRE BOOKS* HAS THE CLOUT TO ARRANGE IT!

MISTER S!

TAKE A LOOK AT *THIS!*

-- EXCLUSIVE FOOTAGE OF DAREDEVIL AND THE BLACK WIDOW'S DRAMATIC BATTLE IN SAN FRANCISCO LAST NIGHT --

LOOK AT THEM MOVE!

ISN'T IT *GREAT*, MISTER S? DON'T YOU WISH YOU COULD *BE* THERE?

MISTER S -- ?

PHIL! DORIS! GLAD YOU COULD MAKE IT!

-- TORCH'S NEW COSTUME ON THE *SUNDAY MAGAZINE* --

-- RESOLVE *NEVER* TO COME INTO WORK ON TIME --

-- MORE PUNCH --

YOU'LL NEVER GUESS WHAT'S HAPPENED! IT'S *INCREDIBLE!* IT'S *PERFECT!*

-- CALLED SOLARR, I THINK --

-- GOES WITH YOUR *EYES* --

SOME *AMAZON WOMAN* NAMED *THUNDRA'S* CHALLENGED THE *THING* TO A *TITLE MATCH* --

-- AND SHE'S APPARENTLY GOT THE *STRENGTH* TO DO IT, TOO!

IT'S GOING TO HAPPEN ON THE *THIRD*, IN SHEA STADIUM --

-- AND I WANT *YOU* THERE, EXCLUSIVE TO THE GLOBE!

I DON'T KNOW, BARNEY -- I'M SORT OF *WORKING* ON SOMETHING --

PHIL, *PHIL!* EVER SINCE THAT GIANT-MAN SHOT, YOU'RE MY *GOOD LUCK CHARM!* YOU'VE GOT TO DO IT!

YOU DO THIS FOR ME, WE COULD TALK *COLUMN.*

THREE A *WEEK* -- YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE MARVELS, WITH YOUR *PHOTOS* OF COURSE --

LET ME *THINK* ABOUT THAT, BARNEY..

A COLUMN.

MAYBE THAT WOULD BE THE WAY TO DO IT -- TO COUNTER JONAH'S DISTORTIONS ON AN ONGOING BASIS.

I MEANT TO TELL BARNEY YES --

-- BUT --

IT'S SET UP, PHIL. I CAN GET YOU IN FOR AN HOUR THIS AFTERNOON.

THIS AFTER-NOON? I'M DUE AT SHEA IN HALF AN --

IT'S THE ONLY TIME AVAILA --

FINE. I'LL BE THERE.

THIS IS FOR THE NEW BOOK, RIGHT?

MAYBE A COLLEC-TION OF SUPER-VILLAIN PICTURES? I TRIED THE IDEA ON SALES -- THEY LOVED IT.

WHO DO I TALK TO, MISTER SCHWED?

MARCIA!

I CAN'T MAKE THE THING-THUNDRA FIGHT!

WHAT? BUT --

HERE ARE THE PASSES. YOU GO, GET TWO ROLLS WORTH OF SHOTS.

BUT YOUR COLUMN --

I'LL SQUARE IT WITH BARNEY. YOU'LL GET YOUR OWN BYLINE.

GOTTA GO.

BUT --

THEY WERE HOLDING HIM AT RYKER'S ISLAND, PENDING TRIAL.

NO COLUMN. NOT ONCE BARNEY FOUND OUT HE COULDN'T PLASTER "THE AUTHOR OF MARVELS" ON HIS FRONT PAGE

AND I WASN'T GOING TO DO A BOOK ON SUPER-VILLAINS.

PEOPLE WERE TOO READY TO BE SCARED AS IT WAS. I DIDN'T NEED TO GIVE THEM MORE REASONS.

NO

POLICE

-- I JUST HAD TO SEE HIM FACE TO FACE.

SOME EYEWITNESSES REPORTED YOU FLAILING ABOUT -- AS IF YOU'D LOST CONTROL OF YOUR *TENTACLES*...

NO. OTTO OCTAVIUS *NEVER* LOSES CONTROL.

I DIDN'T ASK ABOUT *SPIDER-MAN* INTERFERING, DOCTOR.

WHY BRING *HIM* UP, UNLESS -- ?

SPIDER-MAN DOESN'T HAVE THE *BRAINS* TO INTERFERE WITH THE WORKINGS OF MY AMAZING ARMS.

DON'T TRY TO MATCH WITS WITH *ME*, PHOTOGRAPHER.

YOU'RE GOING TO BE IN JAIL A *LONG TIME*, DOCTOR. WHY NOT DO THE HONORABLE THING -- LET SPIDER-MAN OFF THE HOOK?

I CONFIRM OR DENY *NOTHING*.

WHY *SHOULD* I --

-- WHEN IT'S SO MUCH FUN TO SEE HIM SQUIRM?

HE'D NEVER CONFESS -- NOT IN SO MANY WORDS.

BUT HE WANTED ME TO KNOW HE'D DONE IT -- WANTED ME TO ADMIRE THE SKILL WITH WHICH HE'D FRAMED SPIDER-MAN.

WHETHER HE'D INTENDED TO OR NOT.

STILL, THAT WAS THAT.

I WAS DONE. I'D TALKED TO EVERYONE.

NOK NOK

ALMOST.

MISTER SHELDON?

HI I'M GWEN STACY.

I'D BEEN AFRAID SHE MIGHT NOT AGREE TO TALK TO ME THE WHOLE SUBJECT MUST HAVE BEEN SO UPSETTING TO HER.

BUT SHE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN MORE FORTHCOMING.

WE TALKED FOR HOURS.

MY FATHER WAS A STERN MAN. HE HAD OLD-FASHIONED VALUES.

BUT YOU COULD TELL -- EVERYTHING HE DID CAME FROM THE HEART --

-- AND YOU COULDN'T BE IN THE SAME ROOM WITH HIM --

-- AND NOT FEEL SAFE.

IT WASN'T UNTIL THE THIRD VISIT THAT WE TALKED ABOUT THE DAY ITSELF

THEY SAY HE SAVED A BOY -- SAVED HIS LIFE.

HE DIED DOING GOOD. THAT'S MY DAD FOR YOU.

SPIDER-MAN.

I HATE HOW HE SKITTERS. YOU LOOK UP AND THERE HE IS, ALL -- CROUCHED.

I WONDER SOMETIMES IF THERE IS A FACE BEHIND THAT MASK.

I HATED HIM AT FIRST. I KNEW IT WAS HIS FAULT.

BUT NOW I'M NOT SO SURE...

BOY! SOMETHING SMELLS GREAT IN HERE!

YOUR HAIR LOOKS TERRIFIC, DORIS! ARE YOU DOING SOMETHING NEW WITH IT?

NO, I --

MARCIA! TOMORROW I WANT YOU TO START GOING THROUGH THE FILES - PICKING OUT THE IMAGES YOU THINK ARE MOST STRIKING.

GOT TO GET THAT NEW BOOK STARTED!

SHE DIDN'T THINK SPIDER-MAN DID IT.

SHE DIDN'T BLAME HIM. NOT ANYMORE.

YOUR FATHER DISAGREED WITH JAMESON?

OH, VEHEMENTLY. HE THOUGHT SPIDER-MAN WAS A GOOD MAN. A HERO.

THEY'D ARGUE CONSTANTLY --

-- CREA-TURES --

-- POLICE, WHERE ARE --

-- DO SOME-THING --

-- OUTTA MY WAY --

HUH?

WHAT'S --

-- THEY'LL KILL US ALL --

- oh.

THE SUB-MARINER HAD INVADED THE CITY - TO RECLAIM AN ATLANTEAN CITIZEN TAKEN PRISONER BY THE U.N., AS IT TURNED OUT.

IT WAS RELATIVELY PEACEFUL AND DIDN'T LAST LONG. NO DEATHS. SOME PROPERTY DAMAGE, FOR WHICH NAMOR MADE FULL RESTITUTION.

OF COURSE, WE DIDN'T KNOW THAT AT THE TIME.

THEY DON'T SEEM TO BE HURTING ANYONE...

IT'S --

-- IT'S BEAUTIFUL, ISN'T IT?

AND IT WAS.

THERE WAS HARD SCIENCE BEHIND IT ALL --

-- ATTACK CRAFT CONSTRUCTED TO WITHSTAND DEEP-SEA PRESSURES, HEAVILY HYDRATED AIR TO KEEP THE WEAPONS WORKING --

-- BUT GWEN DESCRIBED IT BEST.

IT'S LIKE -- LIKE BEING IN A SNOW GLOBE --

-- SO PRETTY AND STRANGE AND UNREAL --

-- AS IF IT'S NOT HAPPENING NOW --

-- IT'S ONLY A *DREAM* OF SOMETHING THAT HAPPENED ONCE --

LOOK! THE WINGS --

I SAW THE WONDER AND DELIGHT IN HER FACE AND KNEW THE MISTAKE I'D MADE.

SO SOME OF US BE-LITTLED THE MARVELS. SO WE DIDN'T APPRE-CIATE THEM. THAT WASN'T IMPORTANT.

THEY WEREN'T **HERE** TO WIN THE APPROVAL OF THE PETTY AND SMALL-MINDED.

TO SAVE PEOPLE LIKE **GWEN.**

THEY WERE HERE TO **SAVE THE INNOCENT.**

WE WALKED THROUGH THAT DELICATE FANTASY-LAND FOR WHAT SEEMED LIKE DAYS --

-- AND I SAW NAMOR --

-- BUT I DIDN'T JUST SEE NAMOR AS HE WAS --

-- I SAW HIM SINCE THE VERY BEGINNING --

-- AND I REMEMBERED HOW EVEN THEN WE WERE SO SCARED, WE HOUNDED HIM UNTIL HE LASHED OUT AT US --

-- AND THEN WE LABELED HIM A VILLAIN --

-- AND IT FELL INTO PLACE SO NEATLY. THIS WASN'T AN ARTICLE OR A COLUMN OR ANYTHING THAT SMALL.

IT WAS MY BOOK. MY NEW BOOK.

NOT A PHOTO BOOK, NOT MORE OF THE SAME, BUT A REAL BOOK.

A MAJOR WORK ON THE MARVELS AND WHAT THEY SHOULD MEAN TO US.

AND JUST AS I SAW A PLUME OF SMOKE IN THE DISTANCE AND WONDERED WHAT IT MIGHT BE --

YOU KNOW, MY FATHER KEPT A JOURNAL.

MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING IN IT ABOUT SPIDER-MAN, HOW HE FELT.

WOULD THAT HELP YOU?

EVERYTHING WOULD WORK. I KNEW IT

IT WAS THE BOOK I'D BEEN LEARNING TO WRITE MY WHOLE LIFE WITHOUT KNOWING IT --

-- AND THE CENTERPIECE WOULD BE A VINDICATION OF SPIDER-MAN.

ABSOLVED BY THE DAUGHTER OF THE MAN HE WAS ACCUSED OF KILLING -- AND PRAISED AS A HERO BY THE MAN HIMSELF.

EVERTHING WOULD WORK.

BLAT BLAT

WHERE IS SHE?

SHE SAID SHE'D LOOK FOR THE JOURNALS -- SAID SHE DIDN'T KNOW WHERE SHE'D BE --

-- EITHER AT HER PLACE OR HER BOYFRIEND'S --

-- I NEVER DID UNDERSTAND WHAT SHE SAW IN THAT WEASEL **PARKER** -- LEECHING OFF SPIDER-MAN'S DEEDS TO EARN A DIRTY **BUCK** --

oh, dear lord.

TAXI!!

THAT MAN IN THE SKY -- THE GREEN GOBLIN

FOLLOW HIM! QUICKLY!

FOLLOW A FLYIN' GUY?

WHAT ARE YOU, NUTS?

JUST DO IT! GO!

KREEEEEE

TAXI

oh please oh please oh please oh please

THIS IS AS FAR AS I GET YOU, BUDDY.

KINDA LOOKS LIKE HE'S HEADED FOR THE RIVER.

SAY -- IS THAT A GAL HE'S CARRYIN'?

THANKS!

SHE'LL BE ALL RIGHT SHE'LL BE ALL RIGHT

THERE SHE IS!

AND THEN, SPIDER-MAN APPEARED, AS I KNEW HE WOULD HE, OR ONE OF THE OTHERS

I WASNT CLOSE ENOUGH TO HEAR THEM, BUT I HAD MY TELEPHOTO LENS.

I COULD SEE EVERYTHING.

I SHOULD HAVE CALLED THE POLICE. BUT I HAD FAITH.

I KNEW HE WOULD SAVE HER.

THAT WAS WHAT HE DID.

THAT WAS WHAT THE MARVELS DID.

THEY SAVED INNOCENTS.

THAT WAS WHAT THEY WERE HERE FOR.

I HAD MY FINGER ON THE SHUTTER RELEASE, READY TO CAPTURE THE RESCUE -- THE MOMENT OF TRIUMPH --

--AND THEN THE GOBLIN --

--AND HE KNOCKED HER OFF THE--

--AND SPIDER-MAN--

SNAP

no

I TRIED TO TELL MYSELF SHE WAS JUST UNCONSCIOUS...

...BUT A BODY LOOKS ONE WAY ALIVE AND ANOTHER WAY WHEN IT'S DEAD. I'D SEEN ENOUGH OF BOTH IN THE WAR TO KNOW.

THE REST OF IT WAS A BLUR.

THE POLICE --

-- THE OTHER REPORTERS --

-- THE AMBULANCE --

--AND SHE WAS STILL DEAD.

Daily Globe

*** FINAL

NORMAN OSBORN DEAD

Body Found in Chemical-Industry Mogul's Warehou

Under Mysterious Circumstances; Spider-Man, Green Goblin Involved

HER DEATH DIDN'T EVEN MAKE THE FRONT PAGE.

AND STACY'S DAUGHTER GETS BURIED IN PARAGRAPH TEN.

PARA-GRAPH TEN!

SPIDER-MAN DID, OF COURSE, THOUGH ONLY THE BUGLE ACCUSED HIM OF MURDER

THE OTHERS ALL TROTTED OUT GEORGE STACY, THOUGH

MAYBE IF YOU WROTE THAT PIECE YOU'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT, PHIL.

THE WORK WOULD EASE YOUR MIND.

HE FAILED HER. THEY ALL FAILED HER

Daily Globe NORMAN OSBORN DEAD

I SWEAR I COULD STILL HEAR THAT FLAT CRACK, ECHOING ACROSS THE WATER, ECHOING IN MY EARS

I READ LATER THAT IT WAS THE SHOCK OF THE FALL THAT KILLED HER, BUT IT SURE LOOKED LIKE --

-- IT LOOKED LIKE

IT DIDN'T MATTER. SHE WAS STILL DEAD.

THEY HADN'T SAVED HER.

I BROUGHT YOU SOME TEA, DEAR.

DORIS THOUGHT I'D PERK UP. COME TO MY SENSES. SNAP OUT OF IT. BOUNCE BACK.

SHE DIDN'T UNDERSTAND.

IT'S YOUR FAVORITE, PHIL.

BEEF STROGA-NOFF.

TO HER, LIKE THE REST OF THE WORLD, GWEN WAS JUST A GIRL. TOO BAD SHE DIED, BUT IT'S NOT LIKE SHE WAS ANYONE IMPORTANT.

BUT THAT WAS THE POINT, BLAST IT!

THAT'S THE WHOLE POINT.

AT LEAST TRY TO WORK ON THE BOOK, PHIL.

MARCIA'S BEEN PULLING PHOTOS -- REALLY GOOD ONES --

HOW ABOUT *THIS* ONE?

THE *BLACK PANTHER* STOPP NG A BANK ROBBERY.

Aah.

THIS -- THIS IS *INCREDIBLE*, M STER S! WHAT A SHOT!

TELE-PHOTO. I WASN'T THAT CLOSE.

THE WORLD GROUND ON. IT DIDN'T CARE.

IT JUST KEPT GOING.

-- IN DETROIT TODAY, AN EXPERI-MENTAL SPACE SHUTTLE WAS STOLEN FROM A STARK INDUSTRIES PLANT --

HERE'S THE CHR STEN NG OF *FRANKLIN RICHARDS*...

I *REMEMBER* THAT DAY.

TRAFFIC WAS *LOUSY*. I M SSED A METS GAME, AND THEY *WON* IT IN THE NINTH.

I DON'T *UNDERSTAND!* ALL THE THINGS YOU'VE DONE -- ALL THIS --

-- AND IT'S LIKE IT MEANS *NOTHING* TO YOU!

THERE'S SO MUCH *MORE* YOU COULD DO --

-- MAYBE A FILM ON THE MARVELS -- A *DOCUMENTARY* -- THINGS LIKE THAT DAREDEVIL FOOTAGE WE SAW --

-- GET ACROSS THE IMPACT OF *SEEING* THEM IN ACTION --

IT JUST WENT ON.

LIKE SHE'D NEVER EXISTED AT ALL. LIKE HER DEATH MEANT NOTHING.

-- HULK AND THE EX-AVENGER CALLED HAWKEYE BATTLED A **MONSTROUS ELECTRICAL CREATURE** IN LOWER MANHATTAN TODAY.

IT JUST WENT ON.

-- THE BATTLE REACHED THE **WATERFRONT**, WHERE --

WHKASH

AND IT WAS NEVER GOING TO STOP.

NOT EVEN IF I HELD MY BREATH UNTIL I TURNED BLUE.

YOU -- YOU CAN STILL *SEE* IT, CAN'T YOU? THIS *DOCUMENTARY* THING -- YOU COULD MAKE IT.

ME? I COULDN'T --

HERE. *TAKE* IT.

WHAT? BUT --

YOU'VE GOT TO BE *OUTSIDE* IT, TO SEE IT FOR WHAT IT IS.

OUTSIDE WHAT?

ANYTHING.

EVERYTHING.

WHATEVER.

IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO *SEE IT* RIGHT.

YOU'VE GOT TO HAVE THE *EYE* FOR IT, AND MINE IS *GONE*.

I LOST IT SOMEWHERE. I'VE SEEN *TOO MUCH*, AND I'M INSIDE NOW. WHERE I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING STRAIGHT.

BUT YOU -- YOU'RE YOUNG. YOU'RE NOT *TIRED*. YOU CAN SEE WHAT I MISS.

MAKE YOUR DOCUMENTARY, MARCIA. *ME*, I'VE HAD A *GOOD LONG RUN*, BUT IT'S OVER.

NO MORE MARVELS FOR ME.

TIME TO *RETIRE*.

Long Island

ANT-MAN AND WASP ALIVE!

Dramatic Capture at Avengers Mansion Marks Heroes' Return

GO AHEAD, CATCH THE *MOMENT*. GET IT IN THE RECORD.

IT'S *YOUR* JOB NOW.

BUT --

WHAT, THE RETIREMENT OF *PHIL SHELDON* ISN'T WORTH A FEW FRAMES?

LET'S GET *DORIS* IN THIS TOO. SHE'S BEEN WAITING FOR THIS FOR *YEARS*. TAKE OUR PICTURE WITH --

-- WHAT'S YOUR *NAME*, SON?

Uh, IT'S *DANIEL*, SIR. DANNY KETCH.

TAKE OUR PICTURE WITH YOUNG *MISTER KETCH* HERE.

A NICE, NORMAL, *ORDINARY* BOY.

CLIK

End of Book Four